ROADS AND BRIDGES, IRELAND.

THE FIRST REPORT

OF THE

Proceedings of the Commissioners appointed for the execution of the Act of the 6 Geo. IV. c. 101. for providing for the repairing, maintaining and keeping in Repair, certain Roads and Bridges in *Ireland*.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 28 *February* 1826.

TO THE

KNIGHTS, CITIZENS AND BURGESSES IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

HIS Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, in pursuance of the powers vested in him by an Act, passed in the last Session of Parliament, intituled, "An "Act to provide for the repairing, maintaining, and keeping in Repair, certain "Roads and Bridges in *Ireland*;"—having been pleased to appoint this Board to be Commissioners for the execution of the said Act, it becomes our duty to report, for the information of Parliament,—A STATEMENT of our Proceedings down to the 25th of December 1825; as required by the 9th Section of the said Act.

BY a Letter which we had the honour to receive from Mr. Secretary Goulburn, dated the 24th of October last, the Lord Lieutenant was pleased to order that the following Roads in the Central District, the cost of making which or one half at least of such cost, had been defrayed at the public expense, under the direction of John Killaly, Esq. Civil Engineer, and which had all been completed subsequent to January 1820, should be placed under our direction; viz.

COUNTY OF GALWAY.

Road between Gort and Portumna, passing through the Derrybryan Mountains, commencing at Ballyturn, and terminating near Marble Hill, being ten miles in length.

COUNTY OF CLARE.

Road from Ennis to Kilrush, by Ballydinnean, called the Wellesley Road, being twenty-two miles in length:

Road from Kilrush to Mount Rivers, by Shruagh, with off-branch to Moyasta, being eight miles in length:

Heads of Bays Roads, commencing at Lehinch, and terminating at Bella, near Cross, with an off-branch towards Carrigaholt, being thirty-six miles in length:

Four miles of the Road between Corofin and Ennistymon, by Ballynacarron:

Four miles of the Road between Ennis and Ennistymon, by Carbanagh and Shallee:

Six miles of the Road between Ennis and Corofin, by Fountain:

Eight miles of the Road between Ennis and Gort, by Ballyline and Crusheen:

One

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One mile of the Road between Ennis and Limerick, eastward of Tinker's Hill:

And four miles of the Road between Broadford and Limerick, eastward of Truagh:

Upon receipt of His Excellency's commands, we conferred with Mr. Killaly, our Engineer, under whose immediate superintendence those Roads had been formed; and being satisfied, from the information afforded by him, that, with a view to their effectual maintenance, it would be necessary to form and keep up a moderate working establishment, and that by the constant regular application of a sufficient body of labourers under such superintendence, the works would be prevented from going out of repair, we recommended to the consideration of Government, the appointment of—

One Resident Superintendent, at £. 150 per annum.
One Paymaster and Clerk - - 60 „
And Eight Overseers, at 10*s*. per week each.

And his Excellency having been pleased to approve thereof, we immediately caused the works to be taken possession of; and the several Roads having been subdivided into eight minor districts, an overseer was placed in charge of each.

It is our expectation that a regular attention to small repairs, as their necessity shall arise, will be productive of eventual economy, by preventing the Roads from getting into bad order; and that a constant moderate expenditure for that purpose, will render unnecessary a frequent heavy disbursement for general repairs.

It appears to us to be essentially important, that the people should be accustomed to money payments in their general dealings; and we have instructed our Pay Clerk to furnish himself with small change to facilitate the payments; on no account to give the money to any of the overseers, but to show the returns publickly to the workmen, and to pay each man his own sum in actual money.

From the advanced period of the year when the Works came under our charge, and the short time which has since elapsed, we are unable to report so decidedly as we could wish, upon the practical working of the system; should defects, however, arise in its operation, we shall endeavour to apply, with promptitude, such remedies as experience shall suggest.

Two Lines of Road have subsequently been referred to us, by order of Government:—one in the county of *Mayo*, extending from Swineford, by Foxford and Ballina, to Killala; the other in the county of *Roscommon*, extending from Slievebawn, by Strokestown, Elphin, and the village of Croghan, to Eastermow. We directed Mr. Killaly to inspect those Roads, and report the state in which he should find the same, with his opinion of the best method to be adopted for maintaining them, keeping in mind the necessity of adhering to every prudent economy consistent with substantial and effectual maintenance. No further proceeding, with regard to those Roads, could be taken by us, within the period to which this Report applies.

This Report is accompanied by a General Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure, in carrying into effect the Act of the 6th Geo. IV. c. 101. made up to the 25th December 1825, agreeably to the 9th section of the said Act.

James Saurin.
J. Armit.
Henry R. Paine.
John Radcliff.

Navigation Office,
Dublin,
17th February 1826.

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GENERAL ABSTRACT of Receipts and Expenditure, in carrying into effect the Act of the 6th Geo. IV. c. 101. up to the 25th December 1825.

RECEIPTS.	£.	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.
Received from the Treasury, nett -	499.	13.	4.	—— Nil. ——

Inland Navigation Office,
15th February 1826.

M. D. Manning,
Accountant.

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